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VICKS MAGAZINE

VOL. 21

ROCHESTER, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1897

No. 2



From a photograph.

CHRYSANTHEMUM, MRS. IRVING CLARK,
GROWN OUT-OF-DOORS.

PROTECTING LATE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

GIVEN the best of care there will often be many obstinate buds of handsome chrysanthemums still crumpled into tightly clenched fists this time o' year, and coming freezes threaten with destruction. Their owners have, doubtless, paid for the indiscretion of planting late show varieties in the open ground by covering them for many frosty nights with sundry blankets and newspapers, until the patience born of penitence is well nigh exhausted.

The best plan that I ever knew for bringing these late buds into perfect blossom, without losing too many of them by lifting, was evolved in a Pennsyl-

vania home. The chrysanthemums were planted along a tall, tight board fence, and along in front of the plants, about six feet from the fence, lay a long, heavy sill. As soon 'as heavy frosts and freezes began to hang in the air, sashes were laid from the sill to the top of the fence, and, later, the ends were boarded up with a very narrow door, the width of one plank only, in each end. This gave space beside the fence for two or three rows of the choicer chrysanthemums, and a shelf along the fence held a row of potted ones. The taller varieties were planted in the back row, so that the effect from the front was very pretty indeed, showing a mass

of flowers close to the glass. The flowers opened nicely here in spite of frost and cold. The problem of watering was solved by propping up the sashes on bright days, and ventilation could be managed either in this same way, or, in rainy weather, by opening one of the doors. The sashes are stored away in summer while the plants are growing. In winter, after the chrysanthemum tops are dead, the space is filled with violets, with pots of carnations and tea roses on the shelf, the latter not for bloom but for storage after they have bloomed their strength away in the house. I am inclined to think that in such a structure,

here in our climate, carnations and tea roses would bloom very well all winter, and it would be an ideal place for blooming hyacinths, etc.

Belated chrysanthemums are more easily managed when grown in pots. On a sunny little southern veranda in our neighborhood I have seen them blooming until almost Christmas. Heavy freezes

gratification." It will not be inapt therefore, at this the opening of the winter season, when the culture of house plants gives especial delight, to consider somewhat certain phases of their management. This is especially true inasmuch as many young persons, and others, every year enter upon window gardening for the first time, or else do so on an enlarged scale.

Requiring, as young plants do, both light and warmth, a south window should be the first choice as winter quarters for pot plants. Still there are some other points necessary to be considered. For instance, plants do not succeed as well near a stove or hot air register as they do farther away; should the heater therefore be near the south window it may be necessary to keep the plant stand elsewhere. An east or west window, the former preferred, should be the next choice. Indeed in the spring and summer either of the latter is somewhat preferable to a south window, because of the stronger sunshine in the last named at a season when neither heat nor excessive sunshine are required.

But what of a north exposure for pot plants? If there is no other window available, one need not be without beautiful plants and flowers even here, if such be properly selected. Here is a list of some good north-window plants: Tulips, hyacinths and other Dutch bulbs, *Aspidistra lurida*, and its variety with variegated leaves, India rubber plant, gold-spotted farfugium, English ivy, German ivy, (*Senecio*), Agaves, palms, especially *Lantana Borbonica*, *nephrolepis*, *pteris* and *Iomaria* ferns, *lycopodium*, *Wandering Jew* in several varieties, *sedum*, *money-vine*, etc.

One thing must not be lost sight of in finding a place for the plant-stand, namely, that the place of best light, that is, near the glass, also is the coldest place in a room. For this reason one must especially guard against frost bites in the winter. A movable plant stand, mounted on rollers after the plan of figure 1, is very useful for promoting health and bloom in window plants. It should be built so that the lower shelf comes, in the day time, close to the window sash as here shown. Then at night, when no light is needed, the stand can be rolled back into the

some cases the plants could, part of the time, be kept at a south window, and at other times at one less favorable for light, but perhaps more favorable as regards heat.

Undoubtedly the best place for house plants as regards heat is to have them in a room adjoining the one where the stove stands, and with the rooms connected with open doors, so that the warmth will be sufficiently diffused.

The average collection gets along best where there is a night temperature of from forty-five to sixty degrees at the plant stand. In the day time the place may well be ten or fifteen degrees warmer.

A fertile soil is an important point in house plant culture. It be may called the food question, and florists will tell you that in order to have fine plants they must receive good food. The best soil is one that is especially prepared some months before it is used. It consists of two parts of thin sods from a meadow, chopped up fine, and mixed with one half the amount of old rotten cow dung.

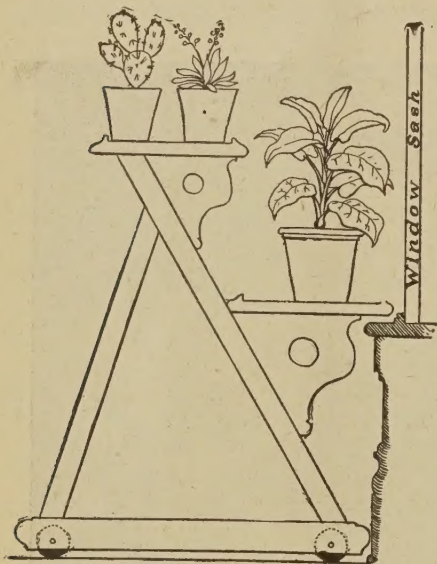


FIG. 1—END CROSS-SECTION OF A PLANT-STAND ON ROLLERS.

used to nip plants blooming there sometimes, so that the stems would give way just below the buds and the handsome flowers be spoiled by "weak necks." But their owner outwitted the weather. She hunted up a huge, out-of-date wall map that reached clear across the front of the tiny veranda, and when this was let down, even on cold nights and days, the plants were fairly snug. On sunny days it was rolled up close under the eaves. It will not be hard for any real "amateur" to think out similar devices to suit individual needs.

L. GREENLEE.

GARDENING IN THE WINDOW.

IF an enumeration could be made of persons who cultivate window plants in our land, it would be found that they were far into millions. What Daniel Webster said is true: "The culture of plants seems to be a common field, where

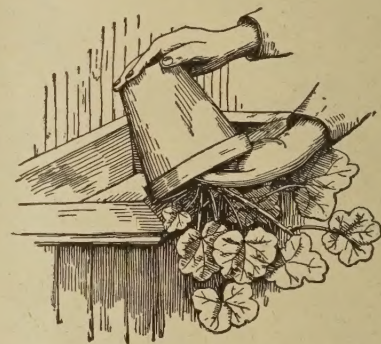


FIG. 2—TAPPING A PLANT OUT OF A POT.

Such soil can usually be bought of the florists for a small price. Insist on getting the best when you buy.

As a pot plant grows, the common way of adding to its food is by repotting into a larger sized pot. How shall we know when it needs repotting? Tap it out of the pot, and if the outside of the ball of earth is pretty well covered with white roots, over about one-fourth or one-third the surface, shift into a pot about two sizes larger. How to remove a plant from the pot is shown in figure 2. Press one hand firmly against the soil, tap the edge of the inverted pot sharply on some hard surface and out the plant slides. In repotting, place some drainage material and soil (see figure 3) in the larger pot, in which set the ball and fill soil into the space around the ball, firming it quite compactly, with the fingers or with a stick.

How to feed plants between repotting, is shown in figure 4. It is done by removing the soil about an inch deep at *a* and applying a thin layer (*b*) of bone meal or other concentrated plant food or of animal manure, afterward returning the soil at first removed.

A plant may be well fed and yet be injured by drought. The air of our rooms

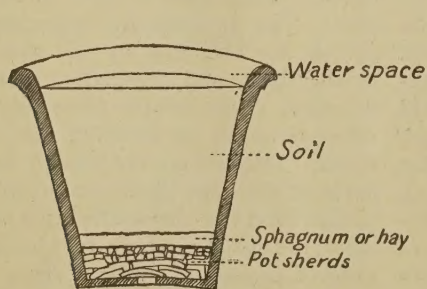


FIG. 3—DRAINING A FLOWER POT.

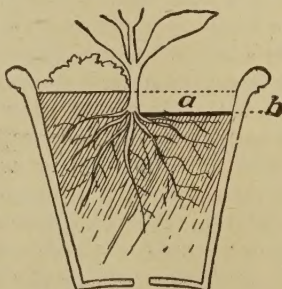


FIG. 4—HOW TO FEED A PLANT BETWEEN REPOTTINGS.

every degree of taste and refinement may unite, and find opportunities for their

room where it is warmer. As such a stand can be moved up to any window, in

is dry, almost desert-like; that is why such desert plants as the cactuses succeed so well here. One reason why plants in the kitchen usually look so well is because of the greater amount of moisture contained in the atmosphere.

Sometimes plants are overwatered; many tiny things are killed in this way. Still in a well drained pot like that of figure 3 such a thing can hardly happen. At the bottom there is a layer of potsherds, the coarser ones carefully laid to overlap somewhat, finishing with the finer bits at the top. On the potsherds is placed a layer of sphagnum or fine hay to keep the soil from passing into and clogging the drainage below. In all plant-potting operations, the work should be finished to have an inch of space below the top of the pot in which to receive water.

A dirty plant or a dirty pot is discreditable to any plant grower. A bath tub should therefore be a part of the plant grower's equipment. Any small tub, with an inclining draining board as shown in figure 5, answers the purpose. The dry plants may be stood in the tub until the ball is thoroughly soaked. Sometimes pot plants seem to be well-watered when it is only the surface that is wet, and perhaps the center is dust dry. Plants in rapid growth need much water. So usually do blooming plants.

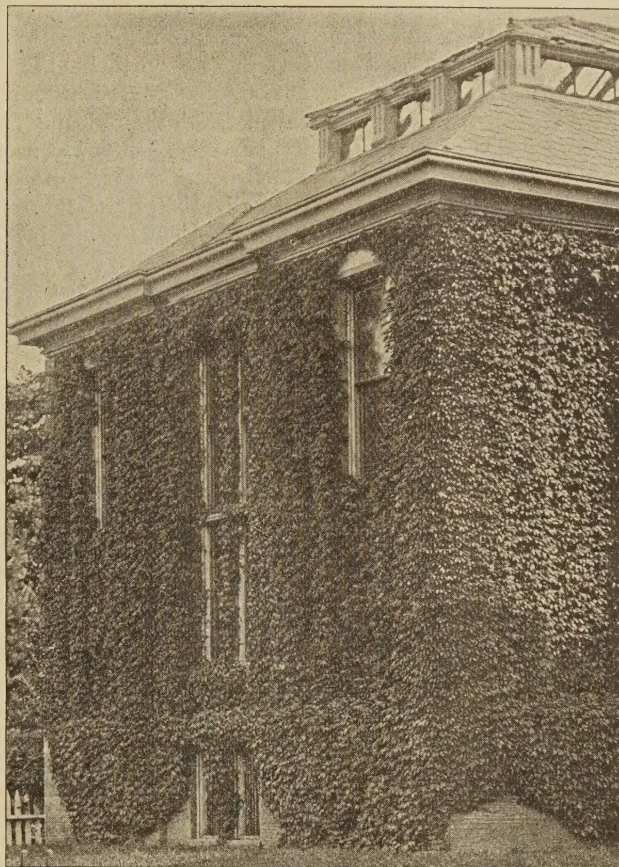
To bathe a pot plant incline it on the draining board, and with water in the tub, wash all parts well with a sponge. The task is more delightful as plant after plant comes from the water clean and beautiful.

Insects usually show up first on the weaker subjects, a hint that the way to

cayenne pepper, succumbs likewise to washing and other good care.

If one must resort to remedies in any

season approaches, say in late winter, to shake the old soil from the roots and repot the plants into fresh earth. *



BOSTON IVY ON ROCHESTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY BUILDING.

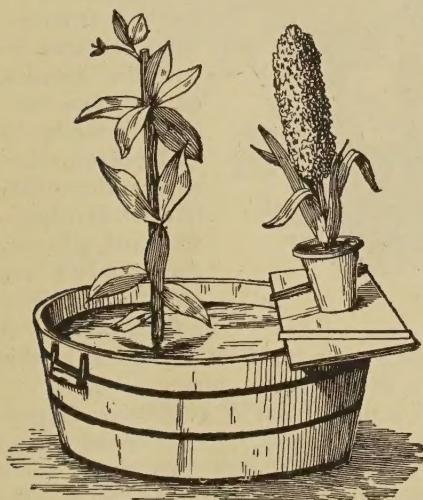


FIG. 5—THE PLANT BATH TUB.

keep ahead of vermin is to keep the plants healthy by good attention. Take that common pest, the green louse,—it is seldom seen on well plants that receive a weekly sponge bath; it is about the same as regards scale and the mealy bug. That other destructive pest, the minute red spider, which looks like a speck of

case, by washing plants in an infusion of tobacco and water having the color of tea, plant lice will be killed; while scale and other insects yield readily if washed in soap suds as warm as the hands can bear,—this will destroy the young that are too minute to be seen with the naked eye. Every such washing should be followed, after an hour, with a douche of clean water.

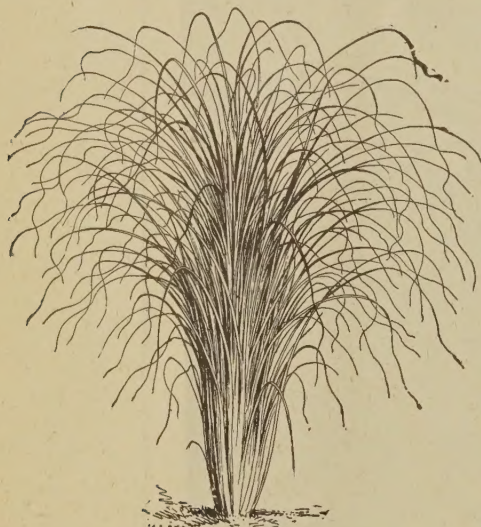
As regards airing the plants, it is perhaps sufficient to say that what in this respect is healthful for human lungs will suit the plants. But do not forget that the plants cannot take a walk on a pleasant day, hence fresh air should frequently be admitted to them from the window.

In nature all trees and plants have their seasons of growth and of rest, a principle that must be observed in house plant culture. When therefore any plant, after a period of growth and bloom, shows signs of lessening growth, water also should be somewhat withheld. In a state of rest from growth most kinds can get along with lessened light also, and this we may take advantage of, by putting such kinds as fuchsias, oleanders, hydrangeas and scarlet geraniums in a light cellar, while growth is suspended. Almost without exception it is best as the end of the resting

PLANT NOTES.

THE *Eulalia Japonica variegata* would pass pretty well for the old-fashioned ribbon grass or gardeners' garters, *Phalaris arundinacea*, as far as the coloring of its leaf is concerned. Its habit is, of course, different, with stouter stems, longer leaves and taller growth. It has the same tough, enduring foliage as the *Eulalia Japonica zebrina*, and its color makes it very conspicuous against a background of shrubs or any other plants. A mailing plant set last spring, and now July 22d, two feet high, is my only experience with it, but I am already sure it is a fine plant which all should grow. I see the ribbon grass is still offered by some seedsmen, but it is not very often seen now-a-days. It does best in or near water, though it will live in ordinary garden soil, and is a good plant. There was a clump in the yard of the log house where I was born; this, after the cabin was torn down, disappeared for many years. Finally it began to grow in a wet spot near by, and here its white, erect panicles of seed were, four or five feet high, making a great show. It may live many years in dry ground without flowering at all. The *Iris Kämpferi* (Japan iris) is in flower with me, this

being its third season since setting. It would have bloomed the second year had not a curious worm, whose egg, perhaps, was laid in Japan, hollowed out the flower stalk. This plant is no doubt an unnamed seedling, but it is a good thing all the same. The foliage, instead of the stiff, upright, glaucous (cabbage colored) leaves



EULALIA JAPONICA.

of the common irises, is deep green, much more slender and narrow, bending gracefully. The flowers high above the leaves from a little distance seem like a wide-rimmed hat with a very low crown. The parts of an ordinary iris flower are all here, but their relative proportions are very different. The large outside petals would be white, or nearly, with a bright yellow spot at the base, were they not so covered with purple veins that they are purple; the three upright petals are darker and are brown, or near it. I see the seed pods are growing, and it grows easily from seed. I have ordered seed in my time and got a lot of plants which died in the winter, but this may not occur again. This root seems iron-clad and is gaining rapidly in size. The Japan iris is certainly an acquisition.

A mailing plant of Alpine aster set last spring has had a flower or two, the first I ever saw. It seems a pleasant little plant with a mass of deep green, narrow leaves close to the earth, and leafy flower stems six or more inches tall. The flower is much like a New England aster's—rather paler in color, which is blue, no better than the New England aster, and hardly as good, but a perennial aster in June is the point. Perhaps the flowers will be better and brighter colored as the plant gains size and strength. If hardy, and I suppose it is, a good mass of it covered with flowers will be a very good thing.

Years ago I used to order seed of a composite annual called crepis. This year I sent for it again, and the plants, white and pink flowered, are now in bloom—a pretty plant enough, but it is not the old crepis or anything like it. What is the matter? Has there been an

evolution since I grew it before? The old crepis had a long, rambling stem, more or less reclining, with large yellow flowers from the axils; the new one has most of its leaves close to the ground and the flowers on erect stalks, dandelion fashion, except that there may be a small leaf or two on them. The flowers close at noon, and there is a long succession of them. Both the old and new crepis are ligulate composites, but no two plants of the same tribe can be more unlike.

Lindley says of the crepis (hawk's beard): "The species are hedge weeds in Europe, but are uninteresting. *C. virens* . . . grows most commonly in the moss of thatched cottages. * * * * *C. paludosa* found in woods is six feet high."

Gray's crepises are like neither also. I would really be glad to know what this new crepis is.

In the autumn of '95 I set a Columbian raspberry. It made a prostrate cane five feet long last summer, which is now covered with fruit, and the new canes, an inch through, are now, July 24th, seven feet high, and will of course go higher if I do not snip them off, which I am thinking of doing. The fruit is large and fine, and I think it fulfills all claims made for it. I read somewhere it was the same as Shaffer's Colossal, but on comparing the two I do not think so. Both are evidently hybrids between the black cap and red

the tile holding two large pailfuls at once. This might last a week or more; it depended on the weather; it went down so much faster in dry, bright days than in dull, foggy or rainy ones that it was plain that it mostly evaporated from the surface. The petunias grew and bloomed finely, the vines running over the grass all round, making the bed seem wider than it really was. I laid a stone over the mouth of the tile to keep toads out, and buried in the petunias no one could see it at all. I did not continue the practice; it is not generally necessary here; but if I had the dry climate some readers of the MAGAZINE have, I would do so, provided I had the water for pouring in. If the sub-soil is not water tight, a grout of water lime cement will make it so, and a joint of old stovepipe, a tube made of boards, etc., will be as good as a tile. Try it, ye dried up Texans and New Mexicans, and report to the MAGAZINE.

The Lillium auratum that last year had seven flowers on stems three feet high is now nearly six feet high and will have twenty-one flowers. The tiger lily that had nineteen blossoms last summer has to-day thirty-one buds.

So these fine plants improve. The little plot that bears them has a crop of crocus in April, in June there is a blaze of hardy gladiolus (170 spikes this year), then in August the great lilies.

The clash and rattle of palm and other

tropical leaves when the wind blows is often mentioned by writers from hot climates as something very unlike the soft rustle of northern foliage, but I can now report the eulalias, all of them, perhaps, certainly the *E. Japonica* zebri-na, as rather palm-like in this respect. Its hard, glassy leaves give out quite a sound in a fresh breeze. A



GOLD FLOWER.

large swamp in Japan, if it grows in that way, would create quite a racket.

A mailing plant of goldflower, *Hypericum Moserianum*, set last spring, opens its first flower to-day, August 15th, and it is fully up to the claims made for it. The flower has five broad petals, a cloud of purple tipped stamens with hair-like stalks (filaments) divided into five bunches. It is slightly more than three inches across, and a rod away would pass for a golden yellow single rose. Close at hand its stamens and young seed capsule are seen to be very different from those of any rose. The foliage—smooth, leaves in opposite pairs, is almost exactly that of the dogbane, *Apocynum*, and the red twigs help

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the resemblance. The plant is over a foot high and will have eighteen flowers. It is a beautiful plant which, if hardy, and this is promised, will be worthy of the widest cultivation. It leaves have the same resinous dots as those of the common St. John's-wort and their odor is the same.

E. S. GILBERT.

from one to three feet in height and bear twenty or more large-shaped flowers, each two or more inches across. The flowers are fine for cutting and last for a long time in water if given proper care. When properly grown and cared for the camassias form very handsome groups, and are valuable border plants, and for this pur-

several years or until they commence to touch each other, when they should be taken up (in October), carefully separated and replanted, if possible in another situation.

The camassias are often grown for the decoration of the window garden, and with very satisfactory results. For this purpose the bulbs should be potted in October or November, placing three bulbs in a four-inch pot, and giving them a compost consisting of two-thirds turfy loam, one-third well decayed manure and a fair sprinkling of bone dust. Mix well and use the compost rough. Let the pots be properly drained and the bulbs covered, then water thoroughly and place in a cool, dark cellar to make root, giving water whenever necessary. In about six or eight weeks indications of a vigorous top growth

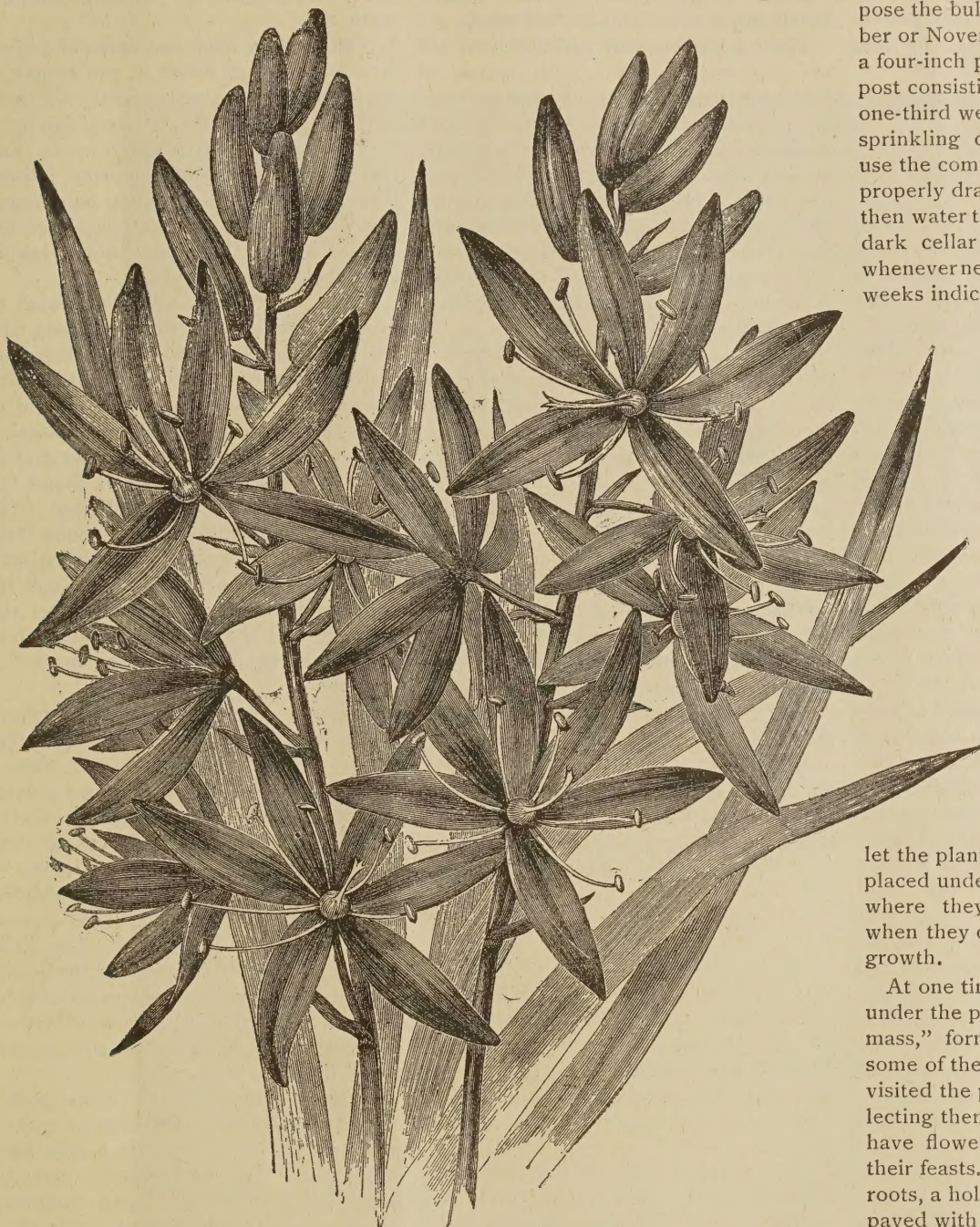
will be noticeable, when a few of the most forward can be started into growth, by giving them a light, sunny situation, where an average temperature of 50° is maintained, watering as necessary, and giving air freely. If the plants are placed in a cool atmosphere, when the flowers are fully expanded, they will remain a long time in perfection. As soon as the flowers have faded the flower-stalks can be removed, and as soon as the foliage commence to turn yellow, the supply of water should be very gradually reduced, and as soon as it has entirely decayed

let the plants be removed to the cellar, or placed underneath the greenhouse stage, where they can remain until October, when they can be repotted and started in growth.

At one time the bulbs of the camassia, under the popular Indian name of "quamass," formed a very favorite food of some of the different Indian tribes, who visited the plains for the purpose of collecting them immediately after the plants have flowered. This occasion is one of their feasts. Preparatory to cooking the roots, a hole is dug in the ground and is paved with large stones, upon which a fire is lighted and kept until they are red-hot. Then the hole is filled with alternate layers of roots and branches; over all is placed a covering of soil, on which a fire is kept burning for twenty-four hours, when the roots are taken out and eaten or dried or else pounded into cakes for future use. Descriptions of the species are here presented:

C. CUSICKII is especially abundant in Oregon. The plant grows about two feet in height and produces during the last of June or first of July large shiny spikes of handsome star-shaped, sky-blue flowers.

C. ESCULENTA is the edible camassia or



CAMASSIA ESCULENTA.

THE CAMASSIA.

CAMASSIA, or as popularly called, quamass, consist of a few species of hardy, bulbous-rooted plants, belonging to the natural order Liliaceæ. They are natives of the western United States, where they grow in great luxuriance in moist grounds, from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean. They have onion-like roots, and long linear leaves, which are grooved down the inside, and the flowers are borne in showy spikes, and in great profusion, during the months of June and July. The flower stalks grow

pose too much cannot be said in their praise. In order to enable them to properly develop themselves they should be given a very deep, well enriched soil, and a sheltered, partially shaded situation, and in the planting let the bulbs be placed in groups of five or six, keeping them about four inches apart and six in depth. The bulbs should be planted in autumn, and as soon as the ground becomes frozen in December a good mulch of coarse littery manure should be given, and the coarser portion removed about the end of March. In this situation the bulbs can remain for

"quamass" of the Indians. It is a robust growing species, attaining a height of two and a half feet. The foliage is broad and sword-like, and the light blue flowers are borne in spikes, each spike containing from fifteen to twenty-five flowers.

C. FRASERII is a species very abundant on prairies and banks of rivers from Ohio westward. It grows about two feet in height, each flower spike containing from twelve to thirty light blue flowers.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

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COLEUS IN WINTER.

COLEUS plants, as a rule, are not a success in an ordinary window in the winter season. For several years I experimented with them, using both old and young plants, keeping them cool or hot, moist or dry and finally hit on a plan by following which they are a complete success every year. My experience has been that old plants generally do not do well the whole winter through. When the main stalk becomes tough and woody it is time to discard it and begin afresh.

My plan is this: Just before the first killing frost in the fall, I go the rounds of my coleus plants taking about three slips of each variety. These are placed in glasses of water to root; when nicely rooted they are potted off into three or four inch pots in a soil composed of two-thirds garden soil (not too rich) mixed with one-third sand. I find a very rich soil is not conducive to extra bright color in the leaves and I have known the plants to be grown beautifully bright in pure sand. I keep two plants of each kind and they remain in the same pots until spring. They are placed in the highest shelf in my bay window, which makes them six feet from the floor and one and a half feet below the top of the window. It is of necessity a very hot place as, in addition to the heat from the stove, the sun beats in on them all the forenoon and half the afternoon of every sunny day.

As the plants begin to grow tall, I pinch out the ends of the shoots to make them branch freely until about February 1st, when I let them grow for slips. They are usually large enough by March 1st, when I put them in water to root. In a few days the roots appear and they are potted off as before. I give the new plants the upper shelf then to get them in good condition to bed out in May and set the old stock plants aside. Some of the old plants will branch out again and raise another lot of slips, which are discarded at once.

From the time the slips are potted off in the fall until March, that high shelf is my particular pride. The gorgeous colors and soft velvety texture of the leaves are as beautiful as flowers.

Some of the best varieties are Golden

Bedder, Charm, John Goode, South Park and Golden Crown for yellow sorts; Louise Chretien, Ruby and Moonbeam among white and pale tints; Crisp Beauty, Geo. Simpson among light red and pink sorts; Dr. Koch, Brightness, Firebrand, Fire King and Midnight, crimson and maroon; Progress, Mrs. Hunt and Butterfly among mottled and shaded ones.

There are a few new varieties that are of a stronger growth, with leaves of immense size for coleus. I have not tried any of them but have seen them displayed in greenhouses and also at our last agricultural fair. Some of the leaves were five or six inches long and though the plants are handsome as decorative plants, they do not seem so appropriate or beautiful for bedding purposes as the old sorts. A specimen plant is a lovely sight, but a mass of them spoils the effect.

Coleus, as a rule, are remarkably free from insect foes. I never found any but the mealy bug on mine, but they can kill the plants in short order if they are left undisturbed a short time, as they seem to sap the life of the plant so that it wilts and falls over before one knows anything is the matter with it. Eternal vigilance is the best remedy, but when you find them on the plants the use of alcohol or whisky on them will kill them at once.

It is hard to give coleus too much heat but a chill will cause the leaves to fall off. Mine are watered three times a week during cold weather. Later in spring they need it every day. They are sprayed every morning before the sun is on them. To sum it all up, young plants, plenty of heat and not too much water will give one a fine display of coleus all winter.

BERNICE BAKER.

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SEED PODS.

The chrysanthemum's buds in outdoor gardens are still fresh, October 16th.

In the South Atlantic States we cannot plant Chinese sacred lilies until about the first of December. If planted earlier they make a strong growth in autumn and are ruined.

What a grand contrast the yucca and tritoma would make planted in a bed together if they only bloomed in the same season! As it is, we must content ourselves with tuberoses, anemones, or white chrysanthemums, and neither of these is an affinity for the tritoma. Will someone suggest a better plant?

People who fear to risk their anemone roots in the open ground can safely keep them over until March. This will delay the buds until warm weather. The roots look as dry as if they had been kept for centuries in some mummy case, but they are very lively when started. Anemones make exceedingly pretty window plants, and are very easily managed.

Crinum culture simplified is to dig the

bulbs like gladioli in the fall, dry them without trimming, place them in paper bags and hang them up to the cellar ceiling. Even the crinums that are hardy enough to stay out doors over winter seem to bloom better when treated in this way. The treatment helps to ripen them, I suppose, and insures an entirely dormant state.

If those who have lost bulbs of Lilium Kramerii through water in the center of the bulb in winter, will carefully lift them in the fall, place them in damp soil upon a cellar floor to stay through winter, and carefully replant them in spring, I think they will succeed in keeping nice, sound bulbs. This pink Kramerii is something unique among lilies and worth taking considerable trouble about.

As we are still planting lilies I wish to ask if anyone has tried wrapping the bulbs in moss before placing them on their cushion of sand, and how they have succeeded. Some that we wrapped in moss and planted in an exposed position thrived finely without any summer mulch. We dug them up this fall and found the bulbs unusually sound and free from blemish. Some tiny little Bermuda lilies that we grew from scales, sent thread-like roots straight down through the soil till they reached the moss placed over the drainage and then enmeshed themselves in it. We want to experiment further in this line.

Can someone suggest a way to mitigate the tedium of digging summer-flowering oxalis? A tiny bulb no larger than a sweet pea will in a season form a cluster of little bulbs as large as a teacup. To the larger one in the middle they all cling and can be lifted with some degree of ease if dug just as quickly as the tops die down. But suppose there should come a two week's rain just then? The little bulbs will crumble away from the spade in every direction, and patient picking-up must be resorted to. Permanent borders of these bulbs we leave in the ground over winter, under a mulch.

Between plants of the same genus, often between varieties of the same species we have marked a whimsical difference in culture. The rose-colored and the white varieties of the Japan anemone standing near together are good examples. The rose is much the hardier of the two, and its waxen blossoms still stand up in defiance of the frost. The white one succumbed after the second week of frost, although in sheltered places we can still gather handfuls of its blossoms. The irises furnish another illustration. We always mulch the roots of the Japan species with a coat of rough fertilizer before winter sets in; but if rhizomes of the German iris are treated in this way it causes them to decay.

A great many flowers are blooming later than usual this season. Salvias, Drummond phlox, verbenas, Little Brownie

marigolds, cosmos, sweet peas (which usually leave us in July), tea roses, violets, pansies, mignonette and quite a good many wild flowers are still in bloom here. We took up several fine specimens of belated wild asters, planted them in pots and set them under the shelter of the porch, thinking to have them in bloom very late. But the roots got more heat in the pots than they did in the soil, and the

other shrubby plants that we do not need for forcing or blooms in winter, we cut down to a few inches above the ground, and cover with an old box, stuffed full of leaves. Boxes or barrels that are placed over magnolias and other shrubs of this kind must always have the top knocked out and the packing loose and light, or the dampness from rains will cause decay of the stems. Our tea roses we cover

We throw some pine or hemlock branches over bulb beds, too, to catch and hold the snow, should there be any.

L. GREENLEE.

Garden City, N. C.

**

THE CABBAGE STEM ROT.

This disease has been fully determined by Dr. Erwin F. Smith, of the Agricultural



From a photograph.

A WILD ASTER DOMESTICATED.

plants have bloomed already. We hope they will last a long time, however.

We have quite a row of hardy plants potted last spring and grown through the summer with a view to forcing them this winter, and look forward to the work as a very fascinating bit of experimenting. The trilliums, deutzias, lilacs, crab-trees (pyrus), amygdalus, crape trees, houstonias (taken up in the sod) and a number of other such plants, force easily.

Hydrangeas, lemon verbenas, rose geraniums, justicias, abutilons, and a few

with pine tops, cutting the evergreen into convenient lengths to handle. These must go on in November, and should remain upon the plants until late in April or the first of May. The leaves will be growing up through them by this time, but our springs are so capricious that after a May day of intense heat the temperature may drop till a frost nips everything at night. I learned this rose lesson through a hard bit of experience in losing about one hundred plants because the pine tops were taken off early in April.

Department at Washington, to be caused by bacteria. The disease can be induced in healthy plants by inoculating them with the germs. There is no remedy for plants so diseased, but the disease only appears when cabbages have been planted two or more years in succession on the same land. By planting, therefore, on new land or where some other crop has been raised the previous year, the disease does not prevail. No particular variety more than another is especially subject to the ailment.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1897.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as second class mail matter.

CHARLES W. SEELYE, Editor.
ELIAS A. LONG, Associate,
(formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*).

Publishers are invited to use any articles contained in this number, if proper credit is given.

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H. P. HUBBARD, M'g'r.

Death of Charles A. Dana.

In the death of the veteran editor of the New York *Sun*, which occurred on the 17th of October last, the horticulturists of this country recognize the loss of a devoted friend of their art. Mr. Dana's life of 78 years has been one of active work and of invaluable service to the country in many ways. He maintained his accustomed active life until a few weeks before his death. His country home was an island of nearly fifty acres on Long Island sound, near Glen Cove, Long Island, and there he had gathered about him a great collection of trees and shrubs of the most beautiful and rare kinds, so that it is now one of the horticultural treasure stores of this country. Mr. William Falconer, now in charge of the public parks of Pittsburg, Pa., had charge of this place for many years. From an account which Mr. Falconer has published in *Gardening*, in relation to Mr. Dana, a few excerpts are here copied:

Mr. Dana was an intellectual giant and a splendid specimen of physical manhood. His manner was magnetic, most cordial and kind, and to know him at home was to trust in and love him forever. No resident of Glen Cove ever had more friends or was more esteemed in the village than he. * * *

He was extremely fond of children and all that was beautiful in nature, and he was an ardent lover of trees and flowers and fine landscape effects. When he acquired Dosoris island, about twenty-five years ago, he at once set to improving it, for his heart was in his home, and before long it advanced from a plain country place to a teeming museum of living plants of

great value and merit, for every kind of tree, shrub and other hardy plant obtainable and worth growing found a lodging at Dosoris, and greenhouse, fruit and vegetable gardening too was practiced in a manner unsurpassed anywhere.

We never knew a private gentleman who knew trees and plants generally better than did Mr. Dana; he knew their geography, history, adaptability and use, and there was an exceedingly warm place in his heart for intelligent horticulturists. * * * In his death Americas has lost one of her greatest and noblest men, and horticulture a founder of what is most refined in gardening.

* * *

Campbell's Early Grape.

Quite a number of favorable notices of this grape have appeared in our horticultural and farm journals. We have not yet had the pleasure of seeing it, but knowing the character and good judgment of its originator, are inclined to concede the good qualities claimed for it, though experience has proved that the real value of any plant, especially for commercial purposes, is known only after it has had thorough trial on a large scale, and in a variety of localities. In the last number of *Meehan's Monthly* the editor notices a specimen of this grape which had been sent to him, and mentions it as "a very handsome grape, and one likely to be popular; the berries are large, of a shining black, and the bunch well formed. They (the bunches) weigh about half a pound. It belongs to the same class as the Concord, and is of equally good flavor."

In the last clause above quoted it appears as if the editor "damns with faint praise," as the poet says. A grape no better in flavor than the Concord has not much to recommend it on that score. Still it may have sufficient good qualities to find favor in the market, and the market, we know, does not demand high quality. It is said to be early, as early in ripening as Moore's Early, and a better bearer and better in quality than that variety, and that it could easily be without its quality ranking very high.

If the question is not overranked by one that should be considered first, and that is whether the grape is worth growing at all in this region as a commercial fruit, it may be asked if it is an advantage to have a variety of grape that ripens earlier than those which we now have in cultivation. In reference to the first question it may be said that the plethoric markets and depressed prices and mortgaged vineyards and bankrupt grape-growers bear sad testimony to the illusory allurements of fruit culture.

In regard to the second question it may be said that it appears as if the peach was destined to be more generally raised over a much wider range of territory than it has been heretofore. This is due to a better understanding of its requirements and how to meet them. The markets in most parts of the north the past season were filled with peaches, without mentioning plums, of which there was a glut, and an abundance of pears, for

weeks after grape shipments commenced, although these were delayed two weeks beyond the usual time. If such conditions should continue, or even frequently recur, there would be little or no use for early varieties of grapes to make the competition still stronger, not only with other kinds of fruit, but with grapes sent from southern localities.

* * *

Report of Secretary of Agriculture.

Advance sheets of the report of the Secretary of Agriculture for the present year indicate that an immense amount of work is yearly accomplished by the department through its various divisions. The secretary says:

It is in sympathy with the colleges and experiment stations endowed by congress, endeavoring to help and encourage, while avoiding all appearance of dictation or meddling. * * * The work of the department grows with the diversification of production and manufacturing on the farm, as the extension of commerce by improved and cheapened transportation brings our people into competition with new countries and new conditions, as the magnitude of our crops, seeking new markets, increases and our flocks and herds multiply and enter into home and foreign commerce. It advocates the interests of the American farmers when their exports are discriminated against in foreign countries, and endeavors to serve them from a national standpoint whenever occasion requires or opportunity presents.

The secretary regards the present time as auspicious for pushing the work of the Department of Agriculture, and states that he is "solicitous that the department become useful to all sections of our country, to the end that the greatest possible assistance may be given rural home markets."

This expressed desire of the secretary to make his office and his department efficient is a desirable one, and no one can honestly question the great value of the services rendered the public through this branch of the general government. With increased efficiency, however, must come increased appropriations, and to these none can object if the returns are equal or exceed the outlay.

The secretary asks for larger appropriations for several of the divisions, and the demand will in due time be considered by the proper congressional committee. But we are both surprised and disappointed to find that an increase of expenditure is desired to intensify the one great blot on the fair page of the record of this department, the annual seed distribution. Unlike the former incumbent of this office, Secretary Morton, who said and did what he could to abolish the gigantic evil of free seed distribution, which has grown up through the selfish desires of a portion of our congressmen, Secretary Wilson has not a word to say in condemnation of it, but asks for its extension. As our views on the subject of congressional seed distribution are well known, having been heretofore fully expressed, we do not now enter into details. But we believe that before his term of office shall expire the present secretary will be led to see the injustice inflicted upon worthy tradesmen by the execution of this feature of his department, and that he will use his influence not to increase but to decrease expenditures in that line, or to use in some laudable way the money that is now squandered in giving away seeds that are finally mostly thrown on the manure pile, or even put to a more worthless purpose.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. EDITOR.

How Old a Rex Begonia?

Will you inform me how old a Rex Begonia will get to be and retain its beauty? M. P.

Cohocton, N. Y.

We have no information on this point. Perhaps some of our readers may have some old specimens of the plant mentioned and will let us know about it.

++

Tall Cosmos Plants.

Yours received, and after all I was not disappointed, the frost did *not* come. Warm weather prevailed and the cosmos kept on growing. I climbed up on the grape arbor and pinched out the tops and for three days past they have been a mass of bloom, a sight that would fill any florist's heart with delight. It seems a big story to tell, but it can be proved by reliable witnesses that the pink blossom I enclose was picked to-day, October 16th, from a cosmos plant that is ten feet and one inch in height and the white one from a husk, or tree I had better call it, eight and one-half feet high. The heavy wind to-day is breaking some of them badly. They are the wonder of all who see them, as they usually in this city are seen only about three feet high. A frost is threatened to-night, but I think I will get a little seed. Mrs. A. M. T.

Richmond, Ind.

++

White Spots on Umbrella Palm.

Will you kindly tell me in the MAGAZINE the cause of the little white spots coming on the leaves and stems of the umbrella palm, and how it can be remedied, and greatly oblige Mrs. S. P. N.

Palmyra, N. Y.

"White Spots" is a very indefinite descriptive term, but taken in connection with a palm it probably relates to the scale insect, which is so apt to infest that plant, and which in a young state has a brown center with a white margin all around. Presuming then, that the trouble is a visitation of scale insects, the remedy is to apply a little alcohol, with a small brush or feather, to the insects, which will kill them. The "spots" can then be washed off with a sponge and soap and water.

++

Tips of Palm Leaves Turning Brown.

Please tell me through the MAGAZINE, what makes the tips of the palm leaves turn brown? A leaf is not long unfolded till every tip is brown. Is there such a thing as keeping a palm too wet? Z.

There is not much danger of over-watering a palm if the pot has good drainage; in fact it is often necessary to give caution about keeping the plant too dry, by not giving sufficient water at a time to wet the ball of soil all through. If the pot has good drainage any excess of water will quickly drain away, but if it is lacking in this respect then the soil would be apt to become soggy and cause the roots to be unhealthy or inactive. Or this result might ensue if the pot stands in a jardiniere and there is an accumulation of water in that receptacle. In the case of ample drainage, and the ability of the water to pass freely away, the soil can be fully saturated when water is given and then be left until it appears or feels dry. Then let it again be soaked.

California Violets.

Can you tell me through the columns of your valued paper, why it is that California violets close up a few hours after picking? For instance, a bunch picked at 7 a. m. and kept in water in a cool place, then delivered to customer, being out of the water but a few minutes and then placed in water at once, begin to close up and curl out of shape. Is there any cure for this, and what is the cause? Any information will be much appreciated. They are grown in a house with night temperature of 52° to 60°, and day temperature never above 75° and most of the time 70°.

Worcester, Mass.

C. E. N.

The plants are grown in too high a temperature, and consequently the flowers are soft and tender. A proper day temperature would be about 50 or 55° degrees, if it could be held there, but when the outside temperature will not allow this, then all the air possible should be given. The night temperature may fall to 45 degrees or lower. Even when plants are reared in a proper temperature the flowers will exhibit the character described if left too long on the plants before picking. The plants should be looked after and the flowers picked every day. Florists sometimes try to hold over and save up the flowers a few days for some special purpose, or occasion, and in that case many of the flowers soon curl up and lose their beauty. It is possible that this last named cause may be operating with that of high temperature to produce the undesirable condition enquired about.

++

Sundry Queries.

1—Kindly advise me through the Letter Box how strong "hen tea" is safe to use on a pansy bed, *i. e.*, what proportion of manure and water, and how often? Is the same safe on house roses and heliotrope?

2—I have a hotbed frame on the south side of a shed, which now is full of pansy plants blooming finely, by keeping the glass down most of the time. Will they keep best through the winter with the cover on, or if covered with leaves and other covers up? Would like, if possible, to keep them alive in good shape. The bed has two covers—a glass one, and a board one also.

3—My petunias in the house have what looks like fine white dust on the leaves. Think it must be a fungus growth, and the leaves thus affected soon wither. Can you tell me of any remedy?

I prize the MAGAZINE more and more, receiving each issue with much satisfaction. N. M. B.
Lebanon, N. H.

1—Manure water of a strength safe to use will be indicated by a very light straw color. But, besides taking the color of the liquid as a guide, a satisfactory test can be made as follows: Take a spray of foliage or some of no value—even a weed—and dip it into the liquid; if, after a short time, there is no visible evidence of injury, it may be considered safe to use. If it is too strong, the foliage will turn brown, or become discolored, and have a withered appearance.

It will depend on the condition of the plants whether liquid manure should be used or not, and how often. It should be used only on plants that are in thrifty condition, and that are growing fairly well, or that are coming into bloom, and for that reason require extra sustenance. Commence its use by giving it once a week. If the plants respond to such application, but still do not grow as well as

may be supposed desirable, it can be increased to twice a week. The use of it is to be determined by constant observation and good judgment. It can be used, for the plants enquired about and any others when rapid growth is desirable. Chrysanthemums and roses respond freely to its use.

2—To keep the plants in blooming condition through the winter it will be necessary to keep the frost out of the bed. If the snowfall should come early, and a good snow covering remain on the ground all winter, as is often the case in New Hampshire and similar climates, there will be less danger of the ground freezing, and in that case the temperature of the frame can more easily be maintained, though we are not sure that the frost can be kept out when the temperature runs down to 20 degrees or more below zero, as it does in that region. One of the best precautions to take is to bank up heavily all around the frame with stable manure. Then, with the sash and the board cover over that at night and during terms of very low temperature, possibly frost may be kept out. If it should be expected only to keep the plants in good condition until spring, and without bloom during winter, then some leaves laid between the rows of plants would probably be sufficient, with the sash and covers left off, and no further attention.

3—Undoubtedly the petunia foliage is affected with mildew. Strong, young plants should not be attacked in this manner if kept in a moderate temperature in good light. Have the plants been exposed to draughts of cold air? Plants that have been blooming in the open ground, and are thus partially exhausted, if taken up and potted would be more susceptible to mildew than young plants raised from seeds sown in July or August or from cuttings made about that time. This mildew can be destroyed, but if the conditions in which the plants are kept are not suitable it may visit them again. To destroy the fungus, dissolve one quarter ounce of sulphide of potash, or lime of sulphur, as it is called, in one gallon of water. Spray or syringe the foliage with this solution. One application is sufficient.

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"About a year ago I was troubled with my stomach. I could not eat and was nervous. I could not sleep at night and grew very thin. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and am now well and strong, and owe it all to Hood's Sarsaparilla." MARY PETERS, 90 South Union street, Rochester, N. Y.

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HOOD'S PILLS are the best after-dinner pills, aid digestion. 25c.



Shelter every tool.

A dirty plant is unlovely.

Quickly sort out the decaying fruit.

Tender raspberries—lay down the canes.

Plants in the cellar may need a bit of water.

Its not fair that fall set trees should brave the winter unstaked.

When you call on a neighbor you might mention the MAGAZINE.

Beets packed in slightly dampened sawdust will keep well for a year.

When hyacinths in forcing show many roots, they are ready for the light.

To scrape off the rough outer bark of trees is to destroy many insect lodgings.

Now for the winter crop,—good ideas gleaned from periodicals and works on gardening
Seven thousand barrels of apples were shipped in a single day from Mount Vernon, Ill., recently.

A bush of the Japan Berberry (*Berberis Thunbergi*) on our lawn has been a beautiful mass of crimson and gold for some weeks past.

After all is said, the best way to treat parsnips that are wanted in winter is to cover the rows so heavily with straw that they may be dug at any time.

The successful gourd arbor at Nashville will have one good effect; it will draw renewed attention to a most attractive class of ornamental climbers. There should be ten thousand gourd arbors next year.

Three Valuable Books Given Away.

"ART AND FANCY WORK," "NURSERY RHYMES," "HOME DYEING."

Mrs. Nella Daggett, editor of *THE HOME*, has published a new edition of her popular book, "Fancy Work and Art Decorations," that gives practical instructions for making doilies, table covers, scarfs, tray cloths, pin cushions, etc., etc., with fifty illustrations. This book, together with "Nursery Rhymes" (a 16-page pamphlet with a handsome colored cover design of the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe) and "Successful Home Dyeing," will be sent free to any reader of VICKS ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE who forwards the following coupon to Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

COUPON.

This entitles any reader of VICKS ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY..... MAGAZINE to one copy of "Fancy Work and Art Decorations," "Nursery Rhymes" and "Successful Home Dyeing."

The above liberal offer is made to advertise the old reliable Diamond Dyes, and to get their book upon home dyeing into the hands of women who want to dress well by making their old clothing look like new.

Diamond Dyes have special dyes for cotton, different from those that are used for wool, and are the only package dyes on the market that can be relied upon to give colors that will not fade or crock. The fact that Diamond Dyes have been the standard home dyes for nearly twenty years and that their sale increases from year to year, is proof positive that they have never had an equal,

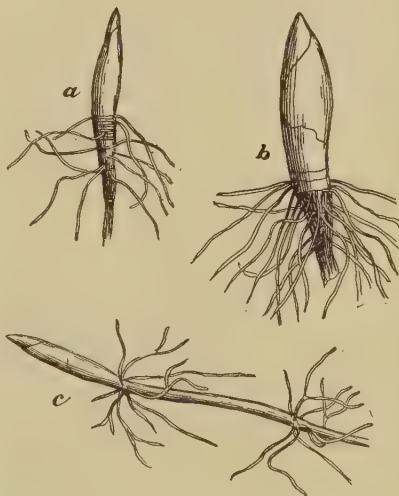
Cabbage on Sod. Since I have begun the practice of turning down old pasture, land or any sod land, for my cabbage patch, I have not been troubled with club root, where before it was very destructive.—*Jacob Galen, Norfolk Co., Mass.*

Deep Drainage. I would rather have one drain four feet down, than two drains one-half that depth. When I began underdraining I thought the latter depth enough, but with every year I have gone deeper and with increasingly better results.—*C. G. Winslow.*

If plenty of fruit and flowers don't help to make people happy, I don't know what will. I work sixteen hours a day, yet would not exchange with a Vanderbilt or Gould if I had to take their cares with their wealth, and be deprived of tilling the soil.—*Veteran Gardener.*

A Fine Present. It is not uncommon for persons to make a Christmas present of the MAGAZINE to their friends. For the cost, nothing of higher intrinsic value could be given to one who loves a garden. The fact that the present is received in monthly installments, adds to the delight.

Lettuce Rot. Those who raise lettuce under glass are frequently perplexed over the



IMPROVING VALLEY LILIES.

a and b contrast between weak and strong pips, c underground stalk.

matter of rot appearing among the plants. An excess of moisture with too little fresh air is a frequent cause of this trouble. Lettuce needs moisture, but that is no excuse for using the can or hose until the soil becomes soggy. Owing to the confined atmosphere and moisture the soil in the lettuce frame may appear dryer, without harm, than would be proper in garden culture. It is indeed better to venture along a line verging on considerable dryness than to go into the other extreme. A good rule in cold weather is to water only when the surface shows dryness. If, however, the beds have a hot air flue or water pipes beneath them, care must be taken to water so that the moisture permeates the entire mass of earth each time. Excess of heat, with corresponding lack of fresh air, is also a prolific cause of rot.

Winter Protection. If we could be sure of a continuous coat of snow from December until March, there would be little need of providing any other kind of protection in the garden against cold, for snow is nature's own protection and one of the very best winter coverings for all plants. It is because of the perfect



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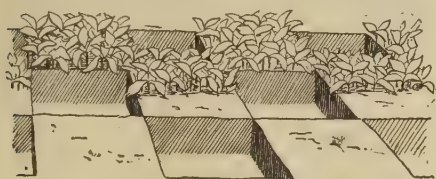
ROBERT H. FOERDERER, Philadelphia, Pa.

shelter afforded by snow during the winter in the Arctic regions, that the short summers there reveal such marvels of floral beauty. For the same reason, many a plant that is wintered with some difficulty in the United States or England, seems to thrive perfectly without attention in Siberia or Labrador. Now, the lesson to learn from this, whenever the snow coat is uncertain, is that in such places a snow covering be approximated as nearly as possible. This may be done very well by the use of soil, or better yet, by sod cut about two inches thick and laid over the things to be protected. Take it in the care of monthly roses of the Bourbon, Bengal and Polyantha classes, if such be bent to the earth and be completely covered with sod, they will winter surprisingly well usually. The same is true of protecting pampas grass, chrysanthemums and the like. For the border of hardy flowers we have always found that it is good treatment each autumn to apply a shovelful of compost or a forkful of manure, over the roots of every subject, however hardy. The great advantage of any kind of winter covering is, that it prevents alternate freezing and thawing, and which has a bad effect on the roots of plants by causing heaving. Even the hardest plants may receive severe injury in this way, and this is the reason why we advocate covering all such. In the small fruit garden the same kind of covering over the roots of plants and bushes is beneficial.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, will full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 320 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Improving Valley Lilies. Ask the average flower grower if he knows how to manage pansies or gladioluses, and he will probably answer yes. Ask him how he grows valley lilies and he likely will say, they need no cultivation. Now, there is where the average flower grower is mistaken. It is true that lily of the valley will measurably take care of itself—will not die out if not cultivated. Nevertheless those who give their beds of this plant no attention, can never know how much finer is the bloom from treated than from neglected plants thereof. A glance at the engravings will ex-



IMPROVING VALLEY LILIES.

Checker board culture.

plain this point. On the preceding page the cut *a* shows a lily of the valley pip from an old bed where the plants are badly crowded, while *b* is one from a cultivated bed. Compare the blooms of the former with those of the others and the difference in their beauty would be found most marked. In the former weak and delicate stems and the bells small and unattractive. In the other the stems heavy, the bells numerous, large and sweet. The difference in the foliage is equally in favor of the large-sized pips. Next we come to the culture that shall give us improved flowers. Where the trouble comes in as to this is that lily of the valley spreads by underground stalks as shown by *c*, hence it forms a matted growth. The plants take full possession of the soil and the foliage and bloom gradually grow poorer in quality in proportion as the mat becomes thicker and the soil impoverished. The culture therefore to be recommended is that known as checker-board culture, shown by the lower figure. It is very simple, indeed. It consists in taking up, by the aid of a sharp spade, alternate blocks of the mat, say a foot and a half square, and one spade deep, over the entire patch. Into the openings there is filled fresh soil from some place in the garden or field, and this is slightly compacted with the feet. The new earth makes a fresh rooting place for the plants, and young ones will soon occupy the space and produce improved foliage and flowers. After the new blocks have reached a fine condition of growth and bloom, then the old blocks may be replaced with better soil in order that they soon may be occupied with new growth. If the bed is gone over in this way about once in five years it will be kept in the best possible shape, and there will be a return of satisfaction therefrom that can never be equaled by the old, neglectful system of treating this valuable plant. It is a simple course of treatment that is heartily recommended to all gardeners.

.*.*

A FLOWER FASHION.—It is said to be the custom in Hamburg, with elegant ladies, when promenading the streets, to hold in the hand a rose, usually with a long stem, which they frequently raise to the nose to inhale its perfume. The rose is a part of a genteel equipment.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE.

Horticulturists and entomologists are uniting in their attempts to allay the excessive fears of fruit-growers in regard to the San Jose scale. Mr. Saunders of Washington, and Mr. Thomas Meehan both claim that the insect can be kept within wholesome check by means of whitewash. Mr. John D. Smith, entomologist of the New Jersey Experiment Station, in an article written by him and published in the *American Agriculturist*, claims that the insect will not be more difficult to manage than some that the farmer and fruit-grower now have to contend with. But he admits that: "Its coming does add a new pest to be dealt with. It is a new factor in fruit growing that makes it increasingly difficult and more expensive, and adds to the demand for intelligence and ability on the part of the grower."

It appears that an important difference between this species of scale insects and others which previously infested our trees to some extent is that the latter breed annually, while the San Jose scale breeds "continuously for several weeks." Mr. Smith says that "if a single brooded scale is reduced by proper treatment to insignificant numbers, it takes several years to recover. The San Jose scale, on the contrary, from the same nucleus becomes as bad as ever by the end of summer." But this he thinks is no worse than in the case of the potato beetles, which require a constant warfare to keep them down. He adds:

Now I will make the very radical assertion that the San Jose scale is a very easy species to deal with, and that its practical extermination in an infested orchard is not particularly difficult. I will admit, however, that the treatment to accomplish this result is heroic and somewhat expensive; but if the trees are not worth the labor and expense involved, they might as well be taken out altogether, because the scales will sooner or later kill them and will at once reduce the value of the fruit, if they do not make it actually unsalable. To accomplish the result above indicated will require treatment both in winter and in summer, because winter treatment alone, whatever the medium, will, I am convinced by experience, prove ineffective, and repeated summer treatment alone might prove injurious to the trees.

After January 1, and at any time before the trees become in the least active, spray with pure kerosene of the ordinary 150 degrees test. Be thorough, but not wasteful; use enough to make a film of kerosene capable of penetrating into the smallest crevices; but let that film be of the thinnest possible description. Do the work on a dry, bright day with enough air stirring to favor rapid evaporation and do it yourself, or at least superintend, so that carelessness in the application be not charged against the insecticide as inefficiency.

Whale oil soap, two pounds in one gallon of water, will do almost as well on smooth-barked young trees; but not on rough or scaly barked older ones, because of its much smaller penetrating power. Ten days or two weeks thereafter, trim out the trees thoroughly and carefully;

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cut out all the wood not absolutely needed, but do not risk spoiling or even injuring the tree. Leave enough to carry a moderate crop of fruit if the trees are in bearing. Do not trim before spraying to avoid cut surfaces into which the kerosene might penetrate. The trimming is to remove that wood least easily reached by the spray and thus to reduce to the lowest possible point the chance of surviving scales. A few will survive almost certainly. A few trees will probably be entirely cleared; but most of them will harbor a few survivors, no matter how many treatments are made. Watch closely during the following July, for traces of the scales on fruit, and as soon as such are noticed spray again with undiluted kerosene. If applied as above directed, so as to afford a chance for rapid evaporation, no harm will be done to fruit or tree, while in nine out of ten cases the scales will be completely destroyed. Thereafter a close watch each summer and a prompt use of kerosene when scales are noticed, will not only prevent injury, but will in not too great a time "exterminate" the scale. Try it! don't rely upon laws and conventions to do the impossible!

Mr. M. V. Slingerland, entomologist at the Cornell experiment station, in a com-

munication to the *Rural New Yorker*, is equally confident that this scale can be subdued, and advises that the fight against it should commence this fall or early in winter. It appears that the material that has been successfully employed in spraying, at Cornell, is a "kerosene-water mixture, one of kerosene to five of water." Exactly how the mixture of oil and water is made is not stated, but mention is made of a spraying pump with "kerosene attachment." Whale-oil soap, two pounds to a gallon of water, is mentioned as being as effective as kerosene. Two treatments with these materials is advised—one in the fall or early winter, and another in the spring before growth starts. Prof. Slingerland also offers in evidence a letter from C. T., of Niagara, Ontario, who advises the use of a wire brush on the bodies and large limbs of trees infested with the scale, and this is to be followed up with a treatment of the soap solution.

* *

SPIRÆA RUBERRIMA.

Under this name a new hybrid spiræa of European origin is announced; a cross between *S. Bumalda* and *S. crispifolia* or *bullata*. The plant is dwarfer than *S. Bumalda*, better formed, with more rounded leaves, and flowers larger and of a brighter carmine. The flowers are a dark carmine rose with bright carmine center.



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THE JAPAN AMPELOPSIS.

The employment of *Ampelopsis Veitchii* or so-called Japan Ivy or Boston Ivy, on walls and buildings in this country has introduced a beautiful feature in the landscape which at one time it was thought we might never possess. Walls covered with green foliage lose all their harshness and become very pleasant to the sight. The ivy-clad walls of England were the despair of our people of taste a generation ago. In only a few localities, and under favorable circumstances, could the English ivy be made to succeed in the northern part of the country. Now this defective is in a measure supplied by the Japan Ivy, which, though not an ivy, appears like it, and produces a similar effect growing on walls. It has but one drawback. Unlike the ivy it is not evergreen. It loses its foliage in autumn and assumes it again in spring. But we have six months of verdured walls. The plant is vigorous and often it is once established is a rapid grower. It is but little subject to disease or injury by insects. It has the ability to cling to walls of stone, brick or wood with great tenacity, exceeding in this respect many fold our native *Ampelopsis* or *Virginia Creeper*. The latter is especially adapted as a climber for porches, verandas and arbors while the Japan ivy has nothing to equal it in this country as a wall climber. The illustration on page 19 shows how it covers the walls of the library building of the Rochester Theological Seminary, situated on East avenue in this city. Similar good examples of this plant may be seen now in most of our northern cities, but there is opportunity for a much larger employment of it almost everywhere, and it can be recommended to those who have not yet attempted its cultivation as a hardy vigorous plant that can everywhere be made to succeed.

* *

SOW-BUGS vs. PLANT PESTS.

Testimony is given by several gardeners, in *American Gardening*, that sow-bugs, contrary to the opinion of entomologists, eat plants, and instances are cited of their eating pansies, violets, cabbage, lettuce and cucumber vines.

The following method, it is said, will rid a place of them: Take Paris green and mix with sugar until the same shows green color. In the evening put it near the place where the bugs lodge, and in the morning it will be eaten. Should there be any sow-bugs left, repeat the process.

* *

STRIPED ASPARAGUS SPRENGERI.—A striped form of *Asparagus Sprengeri* has been produced in France and exhibited before the National Society of Horticulture. It is said to be a very desirable gain.

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DESTROYING INSECTS IN GREENHOUSES.

The following account of the use of prussic acid gas in destroying insects in a greenhouse is given by the *American Agriculturist*:

The greenhouses of W. G. Saltford, near Poughkeepsie, N. Y., recently became infested with "black flies." As an experiment they were fumigated with the gas resulting from mixing potassium cyanide one part, sulphuric acid and water two parts. The work is done at night, as light affects the composition of the gas. In the center of the greenhouse an earthen jar containing sulphuric acid and water is placed. Above this in a strong paper bag is hung the cyanide so that it can be lowered from the outside after all doors and windows have been closed and everybody is on the outside. In Mr. Saltford's test the fumigation was allowed to continue for 30 minutes, after which the ventilators were opened. All insects except possibly the red spider are killed by half an hour's exposure. The cost of fumigating a house 100x18 feet is about fifty cents. Treatment once a month is sufficient, whereas with tobacco fumigation the operation must be repeated every week. The gas does not injure the plants. The operator must take great care not to inhale any of the gas, as it is a deadly poison. Let the greenhouse air for a couple of hours after treatment before entering. If this latter can be done at a time when a sharp breeze is stirring, all the better, in order to restore the air to a normal condition.

SAN JOSE SCALE.

Bulletin 81, of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, is devoted to the subject of the San Jose scale and its depredations on the orchard and other trees in Ohio. The treatment of the subject is very full and with descriptions of methods to destroy the pest when infesting nursery stock and orchard trees. It is estimated that a single female scale insect may be the progenitor in a single season of 1600 millions of young ones. Infested nursery stock it is proposed, to treat with the fumes of cyanide of potassium.

For the purpose of fumigating nursery stock, small buildings lined with felt in order to render them air-tight, may be constructed, or a section of a store house might be partitioned off for this purpose, care being taken to provide a sufficient number of doors so that the fumes may be allowed to escape quickly at the end of the required time. But nursery stock of the size ordinarily sent out can be brought together within a small space and treated in large quantities at the same time, thus reducing the expense of treatment to a minimum. Potassium cyanide is itself of a very poisonous nature and must be kept beyond the reach of children and animals, and during the process of fumigation great care must be taken to prevent the inhaling of the gas by human beings or domestic animals.

Experiments have been made in treating orchard trees with whale-oil soap and with kerosene.

All things considered, the best results have been secured at the least expense by the application of the whale oil soap mixture, at the rate of two pounds of soap to one gallon of water, yet I have seen fruit seriously infested with this scale, that had grown upon trees which had, the previous season, been three times sprayed with this mixture; though of course the soap was of an uncertain and inferior quality.

Possibly very stringent national and state legislation may be needed before this insect pest shall be stamped out, or at least brought under control.

* *

LILIUM WALLACEI.

The following account of this lily is given by H. P., in *The Garden*: Some lilies increase rapidly by division of the bulbs, while others make very slow progress in this way. One of the most prolific of all in this respect is *Lilium Wallacei*, a small-growing lily, bearing a great general resemblance to some members of the elegans section. The bulbs, however, divide naturally with great freedom, being quite unlike those of *L. elegans* or any of its varieties, but *L. Wallacei* is a very pretty lily with orange-red flowers, borne about the end of July. It is not at all a common lily, and is not sufficiently vigorous to hold its own with some more robust members of the genus.

* * * *L. Wallacei* is a native of Japan and has been known in this country for about twenty years.

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College Articles.—Two more papers in the very successful articles on "American Universities and Colleges," which began in Nov. 1896. These will treat of Harvard and Princeton, with portraits, groups, etc.

Short Stories.—Many excellent stories have been secured for publication in the POPULAR MONTHLY. A glance at the Christmas number, with stories by Frank R. Stockton, Amelia E. Barr and Margaret E. Sangster, will indicate the improvement in the line of fiction.

A New Serial Story will follow "The Cat-paw," which will end shortly.

Religious Denominations.

A series of illustrated articles on religious denominations in America. First paper on "The Baptists," by Gen. T. J. Morgan, LL.D., Sec'y Am. Baptist Mission Society. Others papers on the Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Catholics, written by some one prominently identified with each sect.

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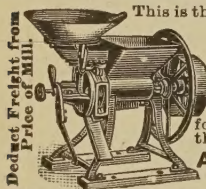
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WHITEWASH FOR SCALE INSECTS.

In the June number of *Meehan's Monthly*, Mr. William Saunders of Washington, D. C., states that for the last forty years he has successfully used lime wash for scale insects on trees and vines.

Not only for fruit trees, but for all sorts of trees; for instance, trees in cities frequently become somewhat stunted in growth and covered with the bark scale. When a case of this kind is encountered the trees are headed back during the fall, all small spray removed and the whole body and branches covered with lime wash, which effectually cleans them. Orange trees when attacked are treated in the same way, and with the same result.

Grape vines are cleared of scale by the same process.

The euonymus, roses, peach trees,—in fact any plant with bark scale, are cleaned and cured in this way, so that a boy, with a bucket of whitewash, is our cure for scale.

In the July number of the same periodical the editor refers to a correspondent who notices Mr. Saunderson's statement, and remarks that,

He practised it successfully a half a century ago, adding, however, a little soot with the lime wash in order to take away its glaring color. It has also been in use by the old German settlers of Pennsylvania for a couple of centuries, who applied it not merely for the destruction of scale, but for all other insects and injurious fungus. No trees can be healthier than those old-fashion people can present. No one need fear the San Jose Scale, or any other scale, who applies annually a coat of whitewash as described.

So many of these admirable horticultural practices of our fore-fathers have been suffered to fall into disuse to be replaced by other more complicated and less satisfactory applications that correspond. Like Mr. Saunders, those who bring these old, worthy practices again to the fore-ground deserve more thanks than those who are continually talking of new notions.

If the San Jose scale can be kept under control in the manner here indicated the fruit-growers of this country will see roll away in the distance a dark cloud which now obscures their sky.

AMERICAN CARNATIONS IN ENGLAND.

A writer in *The Garden* who has imported into England a number of the best varieties of American carnations finds they will not please there. He admits that they may be excellent winter bloomers when specially treated for the purpose, but notices the petals as papery, that is, they were "thin," and had not that substance that is here considered essential in a good carnation. "The saw-edged petal which is present in nearly all American Carnations is fatal to its being any matter of consideration over here. * * * The American carnations, from the fact that the two countries, England and America, look at the flower from two different points of view, are, commercially speaking, of no use whatever in England."

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BOILING PEAS (BLUE BOILERS.)

A crop raised in England, but which is unknown, or at any rate not cultivated for commercial purposes in this country, is thus described by R. D., in the *Gardners' Chronicle*:

Few perhaps are aware that peas for boiling in a dry state are grown most extensively. Thousands of quarters are harvested and sent to the manufacturing districts—to Lancashire and Yorkshire especially, for boiling. Throughout Lincolnshire especially, on the soils suitable for the production of peas, very large breadths of certain blue varieties are sown for this purpose; indeed, it is an important and remunerative crop for the farmer to cultivate. The leading varieties grown for this purpose are Harrison's Glory and Bedman's Imperial, the latter an old variety which has been in cultivation for nearly or quite sixty years. These varieties are harvested when ripe in the usual way, thrashed out and sold to the merchants, who have them hand-picked, and then they are marketed, finding a ready sale in the midlands and northern counties, and they may be regarded as a staple article of food in the manufacturing districts. Those who retail these peas boil them, then take their position in the market, or some open place about 8 o'clock in the evening, a bell is rung, the women crowd round with basins purchasing them while hot for the family supper. Probably there are many persons with scanty means who are unaware what a valuable and satisfying, as well as nourishing article of food boiled peas are. They are best soaked for twenty-four hours in water, and then they boil perfectly, and come to the table soft and edible, finely flavored, and by many as well esteemed as fresh-gathered peas. It is doubtful if the vegetable restaurants supply peas in this way, in our ordinary eating-houses and restaurants they appear to be unknown. Good samples of boiling peas will sell at from *6os. to 8os. per quarter; the price depends upon the quality. It may be added, in reference to soaking the peas in water before boiling, that the water should be cold, and sometimes so much of the water do the peas absorb, that it is necessary to supply more. It is usual to boil in the second water when this is the case; also to allow the peas to gently simmer for two-and-a-half hours, and not boil too rapidly. All dry peas will not boil well, but remain hard. This is the reason that the two varieties named above are so popular for the purpose. Those which boil well of the old stocks left on hand are available for split peas; those which resist the efforts of the cook to render soft and palatable, are useful for cattle food.

**

HYBRID SWEET BRIARS.

As a hedge I do think any plant can be more effectual in keeping out trespassers than sweet briars. They are simply impregnable after the first year's growth. Nor could we have a more pleasing hedge. They root remarkably well as ripened cuttings and make capital stocks for strong-growing teas or Hybrid Perpetuals. My own are now perfectly scarlet with hews, and if these are gathered and sown, a large number may be raised for next autumn's planting. How very easy it would be to beautify our hedgerows and borders of woods with seedlings of these.—R., in *The Garden*.

*\$15 to \$20 for 480 pounds, or, more nearly, from 3 cents to 3½ cents per pound.

PROTECTING ORCHARD TREES.

Rabbits and field mice often greatly damage orchard trees in the winter. Here is a method of protection against these pests, and also the borer, as related by J. R. Cotton, of Stark, Kan., in the *Epitomist*:

I have a wooden bucket that holds two and one-half gallons; in this I put a lump of lime about the size of a man's double fist or a little larger, and pour in enough hot water to slack it. While it is slacking put in one-half pint of gas tar and a pound of concentrated lye. Keep stirring the mixture to get the gas tar well mixed with the rest, and add more hot water until the bucket is nearly full, then put in earth and keep stirring until it is as thick as you would prepare whitewash. The bucket by this time should be full. Take a whitewash brush or a broom and rub the trees with this mixture late in the fall. A rabbit will never touch a tree rubbed with it, and if there are any borers in the trees it will kill them. The trees should be again rubbed the last of May or first of June; it will keep the borers out; when the spring rains come the trees will be washed off and look green and glossy and will make a fine growth.

**

DEUTZIA LEMOINEI COMPACTA.

In our issue of December, 1895, a quite full account was given of the origin and character of a new variety of Deutzia which was raised by Mr. Lemoine, of Nancy, France, and was sent out as Deutzia Lemoinei. It is undoubtedly a variety of superior value in several respects. As yet we have seen no announcement of this shrub by commercial cultivators in this country, but probably it will be offered the coming spring. We now note the appearance of still another variety of the same origin, according to *La Semaine Horticole*. This is Deutzia Lemoinei compacta, and is described as more dwari than the first mentioned variety and more bushy. The flowers are the purest white and in contrast to most flowers of the Deutzia, they entirely open out and display themselves fully. The sprays of flowers are so numerous that they form a bush of flowers; the plant in its entirety has a lighter appearance and its flowers more graceful, characters which will make it preferred for pot culture as a decorative plant in the greenhouse, or for sale as a window ornament.

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CINERARIAS.

Every gardener is familiar with this attractive winter and spring-flowering plant. It is useful to the private gardener for house decoration, for a display of bloom in the greenhouse or conservatory, and also for cutting. It is useful to the market grower as a sale plant, for making into sprays and other purposes.

Cinerarias are easily raised from seeds, or off-sets taken from the old plants; but the latter method is only practised in the case of named and double varieties. Seeds are sown at different periods, ranging from April to July, according to the time the plants are required to flower. Sow thinly in pans, containing a mixture of sifted loam, leaf soil, and a small quantity of sand, previously watered. Cover the pans with a sheet of glass, and place in a cool position, never allowing the soil to get dry. Seedlings will soon appear, and when large enough to handle they can be pricked into pans, containing the same kind of compost as before. The next move required by the plants will be into large 60's, taking care to secure as much soil with the roots as possible.

After potting arrange the plants in a cool frame containing a layer of ashes or some other material to afford a moist base for the pots to stand on. The frame should be kept rather close for a short time, the plants shaded from the sun, and also frequently syringed. When the roots have filled the small pots the plants may be transferred to the size in which they are required to flower, six and seven-inch pots usually being employed. Suitable soil for potting this time is a mixture of fibry loam, broken into lumps about the size of a walnut, leaf soil, silver sand, with a little dried cow manure added. The plants may be arranged in frames as before, and as soon as the roots take possession of the new soil air must be freely admitted.

During bright weather a shading of tiffany is helpful, and syringing twice or thrice a day beneficial. As soon as the flower heads appear weak liquid manure may be given, also an occasional top-dressing with artificial manure will be found beneficial to the plants.

If large flowers are required disbudding may be practised, removing one-third of the buds, taking care that these are the smaller. Disbudding is always required in the double varieties.

Cinerarias are liable to attacks of green fly and mildew. The former can be removed by fumigating with the XL fumigator, or with tobacco, and the latter by dusting the plants with flowers of sulphur, or by syringing them lightly over with a solution of Calvert's carbolic soft soap at the strength of two ounces of soap to a gallon of rain water.—*Elveden in Journal of Horticulture.*

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CAULIFLOWERS--TWO CROPS.

A correspondent of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* thus writes to that journal:

It is a common thing for Veitch's Extra Early Forcing Cauliflower to throw out sprouts from the side; and the same kind of second crop has occurred in my garden with the Walcheron, which had sprouts one inch in diameter at the base, and heads as long as an ordinary tea saucer. We obtain a useful crop of small cabbages after the first cutting, and why not cauliflowers? Only let the land be in good heart, and the planting done early, and not too close, to reap the best results.

In reference to this communication the editor of the *Chronicle* makes the following note: "We have several communications from gardeners in various parts of country to the same effect."

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